

**In the Claims**

Amend claims 1 and 12, cancel claims 2 and 15-23 and add new claims 24 and 25 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of identifying an object comprising:
  - providing an object having on a surface thereof ~~at least one layer of paint~~ a plurality of layers of paint;
  - determining a unique discrete identification for the object;
  - applying the unique discrete identification to ~~the~~ at least one an upper paint layer on the surface with a fluorescent material;
  - permitting the fluorescent material to migrate ~~into the~~ through the upper paint layer and into at least one lower paint layer, while an excess amount of fluorescent material remains on the ~~at least one upper~~ paint layer; and
  - removing the excess amount of fluorescent material from the at least one paint layer with a solvent, such that the unique discrete identification created by fluorescent material migrated into the at least one paint layer is visible at an acute angle to the object surface without use of an ultraviolet light, while being substantially invisible at an angle normal to the object surface.
2. (cancelled)

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the object and fluorescent remain at about room temperature.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the fluorescent material is a liquid, and the solvent is a non-aqueous solvent.

5 (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the object is a motor vehicle, and the paint layers are over a metallic surface of the vehicle.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the unique discrete identification is an alphanumeric identification that is applied to the object at a selected unrevealed location thereon.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the fluorescent material is a liquid, and the unique discrete identification is applied to the paint layer by brush.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the fluorescent material is a liquid, and the unique discrete identification is applied to the paint layer by use of a stencil containing cut-outs of the discrete identification.

9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the fluorescent material is a liquid, and the unique discrete identification is applied to the paint layer by use of a stencil containing cut-outs of an alphanumeric identification, and wherein the stencil is created by: a) providing a stencil sheet having an adhesive backing layer attached to a release

sheet, b) cutting the alphanumeric identification into the stencil sheet without cutting through the release sheet, c) removing the stencil sheet with cut alphanumeric identification and adhesive backing layer from the release sheet, d) placing the stencil sheet with cut alphanumeric identification and adhesive backing layer onto a second adhesive layer, and e) removing the stencil sheet and adhesive backing layer without the cut alphanumeric identification from the second adhesive layer, creating cut-out openings on the stencil sheet and leaving the cut alphanumeric identification on the second adhesive layer.

10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the fluorescent material comprises a nonaqueous-based ultraviolet ink.

11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the paint comprises a urethane-based paint.

12. (currently amended) A method of identifying ~~an object~~ a vehicle comprising:  
providing ~~an object~~ a vehicle having on a surface thereof a plurality of layers of  
paint;  
determining a unique discrete identification for the ~~object~~ vehicle;  
applying the unique discrete identification to an upper one of the plurality of  
paint layers with a fluorescent material;  
permitting the fluorescent material to migrate through the upper paint layer and  
into at least one additional paint layer below the upper paint layer, while

an excess amount of fluorescent material remains on the upper paint layer; and

removing the excess amount of fluorescent material from the upper paint layer with a solvent, such that the unique discrete identification created by fluorescent material migrated into the at least one additional paint layer remains therein and is visible even upon removal of the upper paint layer.

13. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the unique discrete identification created by fluorescent material migrated into the at least one additional paint layer remains therein and is visible even upon removal of the upper paint layer and application of a further paint layer.

14. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the paint comprises a urethane-based paint.

15-23. (cancelled)

24. (new) The method of claim 12 further including directly viewing the upper paint layer at an acute angle to the vehicle surface without use of an ultraviolet light, such that the unique discrete identification created by fluorescent material is visible at an acute angle to the vehicle surface without the ultraviolet light, while being substantially invisible at an angle normal to the vehicle surface.